



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Embargo until: Tuesday, April 20, 2004 - We respectfully ask that you honor this embargo.

Rhode Island Teacher Named National Teacher of the Year Governor, Regents Chairman, Commissioner Congratulate Kathleen Mellor

Kathleen M. Mellor, a middle-school teacher from North Kingstown, has been selected as the National Teacher of the Year, it was announced today (Monday) by the National Teacher of the Year Program, in Washington, D.C.

Mellor, 55, teaches English as a Second Language at the Davisville Middle School, where she has been teaching for 19 years. She lives in South Kingstown.

Her selection marks the first time in the 54-year history of the program that a Rhode Islander has been chosen as National Teacher of the Year.

"Kathleen Mellor is a great role model for success," said Governor Donald L. Carcieri. "She's hard working, she's caring, and she's deeply committed to challenging her students. As a graduate of Rhode Island College, who also earned her master's degree there, she is also a tribute to the Rhode Island College teaching program. We are honored to have her represent Rhode Island."

"I am very proud of Kathleen Mellor, and I am delighted that she has been chosen as the 2004 National Teacher of the Year, the highest honor in the profession. Her selection is an honor to her colleagues in North Kingstown and to the excellent educators throughout the state of Rhode Island," said James A. DiPrete, Chairman of the R.I. Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. "In her year of service as the National Teacher of the Year, she will be an fine representative for the profession and a wonderful role model for youngsters considering entering the teaching profession."

"I congratulate Kathleen Mellor, the first Rhode Island educator to be chosen as the National Teacher of the Year," said Peter McWalters, R.I. Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. "As a teacher of English as a Second Language, she is a particularly appropriate choice to represent our profession this year, as educators around the nation are focusing on bringing all children to high levels of achievement. Kathleen Mellor has worked for more than 20 years on behalf of her students, many of them newly arrived in this country. She will speak for them, and for all of her outstanding fellow teachers, as she takes on this new responsibility."

Ms. Mellor is scheduled to be in Washington this week, along with the other state Teachers of the Year. President Bush will officially name her National Teacher of the Year on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at a ceremony at the White House.

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During the next school year, Ms. Mellor will travel the world representing the teaching profession. She will address forums and meetings throughout the nation and abroad.

The National Teacher of the Year is selected by representatives from 14 national education organizations from among all the state Teachers of the Year. Ms. Mellor was named Rhode Island Teacher of the Year last October.

The program is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), a nonprofit organization, and by the publisher Scholastic Inc.

For information about the program, or to schedule interviews with Ms. Mellor, please call Jon Quam, of CCSSO, at (202) 336-7047.

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Other Web Links:

http://www.ccsso.org/projects/national_teacher_of_the_year/national_teachers

